



ACRE's response to the Localism Bill

Phillip Vincent
Community Engagement Officer



Our focus

- **Neighbourhood Plans**
- **Community Right to Build**
- **Assets of Community Value**
- **Right to Challenge**



Issues identified (1)

- **Community boundaries** – allowing flexibility may stall community initiatives. Parishes work well in rural areas
- **Organisations required to represent community interests** – may result in conflict if perceived to be unrepresentative
- **Inclusion and equalities** – use of referendums expensive and a poor test of community support. Process more important, e.g. involvement of community members in the development of proposals prior to submission



Issues identified (2)

- **Single issue campaigns** – could result in piecemeal development. Holistic focus on community wellbeing and sustainability needed
- **Fit between community aspirations and strategic policies** – where a dialogue between communities and local authorities is fostered, actions are likely to be better informed and more consistent with the strategic needs of an area



Issues identified (3)

- **Capacity of communities to take advantage of new policy initiatives** – need for independent, facilitative support
- **Integration of different policy initiatives** – to avoid confusion there is a need to better align CRtB and Neighbourhood Plans





Phillip Vincent
Community Engagement Officer
p.vincent@acre.org.uk
01285 653477 (x101)

